BLACK JOKE

BLACK JOKE

黑色幽默

5

[漫畫] TAGUCHI Masayuki
田口雅之
[腳本] KOIKE Rintaro
小池倫太郎
譯／鷹門幻流

限 18歲以下不得閱讀

Power 威力出版

黑色幽默 BLACK JOKE 5

[漫畫] 田口雅之
[腳本] 小池倫太郎

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黑色幽默 5

因為意外而失去右手的少年・青柳海斗，開始看見許許多多的幻覺，並且認定是『自己的右手』殺了哥哥。更對靈媒綠桐子深信不疑。吉良受社長所託而來到青柳家，並決定以偵探之姿對青柳宅邸發生的一連串靈異現象展開調查，而埋藏在其中的秘密竟然是…!?

書名	集數
Black Joke～黑色幽默～	1－5
Lives～異獸王～	全2冊

Taguchi Masayuki
田口雅之
【協力】Keiro Rintaro
小池倫太郎

5 黒色幽默

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Koike Rintaro

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黑色幽默

OVERVIEW

Characters

Kiyoshi Kira
KIYOSHI KIRA
AN OPERATIVE FOR THE ONLY JAPANESE GANG ON THE ISLAND. HE MANAGES TD ONSEN. ALTHOUGH AN EX-MARINE, HE STILL FAVORS THE BRAINS OVER BRAWN. QUICK AND EFFICIENT IN HIS MISSIONS, HE IS ALSO AN EXPERIENCED NEGOTIATOR AND HIGHLY CHARISMATIC.

Douji Kodama
DOUJI KODAMA
KIRA'S PARTNER IN THE TD ONSEN ORGANIZATION. THEY SERVED IN THE SAME UNIT IN THE MARINES AND WORK WELL TOGETHER. NOT ONLY IS KODAMA BEASTLY STRONG, HIS FINGERS ARE EXTREMELY AGILE. HOWEVER, HIS THOUGHT PROCESSES ARE INTERESTING, TO SAY THE LEAST.

STORY

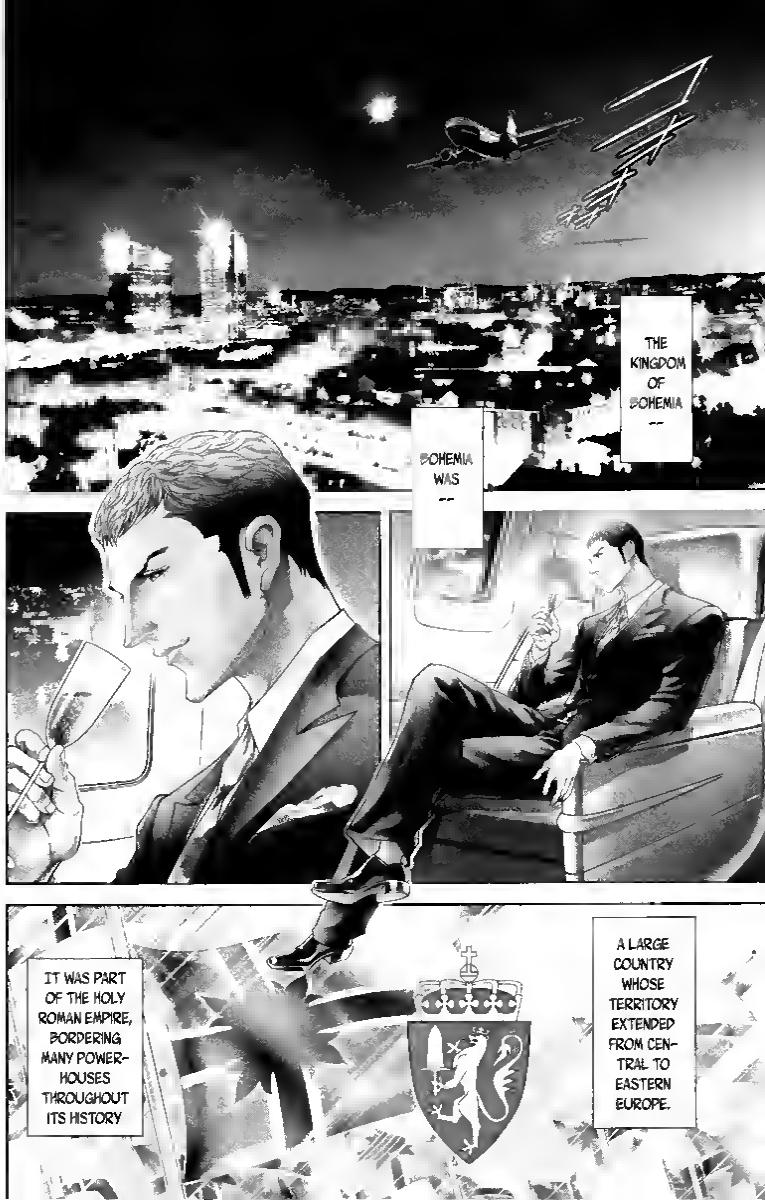
ON NEON ISLAND, DRUGS, CASINOS AND OTHER ILLICIT BUSINESSES ARE LEGALIZED. THUS, A GREAT MANY GANGS CONTINUALLY WAR FOR TURF ON THIS TINY ISLAND. THESE STORIES CONCERN TD ONSEN, THE ONLY JAPANESE-OPERATED ESTABLISHMENT ON NEON ISLAND.

Akari Kuroki
AKARI KUROKI
BODYGUARD/ASSASSIN. EXCELS AT THROWING STUFF AND TAKING LIVES. EXTREMELY ALOOF AND COLD TOWARDS OTHERS... EXCEPT PERHAPS KODAMA?

Kensuke Todome
KENSUKE TODOME
THE HEAD OF TD ONSEN. A MAN WHOSE SINCERITY AND SMILE CAN NEVER BE TRUSTED. EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO READ – EVEN HIS OWN SUBORDINATES HAVE A HARD TIME UNDERSTANDING HIM.

RUNOVER
RUNOVER
THE HEAD OF A MAFIA GANG BACK IN ITALY. HE GOT HIS NAME FROM THE WAY HE EXECUTED SOME TRAITORS. EXTREMELY DISPASSIONATE, BUT HAS LOYAL FOLLOWERS DUE TO HIS UNMATCHED DEVOTION TO HONOR.

CHAPTER 26: RABBITEYE


THE KINGDOM OF BOHEMIA --
BOHEMIA WAS --
A LARGE COUNTRY WHOSE TERRITORY EXTENDED FROM CENTRAL TO EASTERN EUROPE.
IT WAS PART OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, BORDERING MANY POWERHOUSES THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY

BOHEMIA'S KING HAD A PERSONAL ARMY CALLED THE DIVINE KNIGHTS.
OBJECTIVELY, THE ARMY OFFICERS WERE A LITTLE NUTS.
THIS COUNTRY HAD A UNIQUELY CRUEL DEATH PENALTY.
IF THE CRIMINAL AGREED, THEY COULD FACE A CHALLENGE TO A DUEL ON THE DAY OF THEIR EXECUTION
AND IF THEY WON, THEY WERE SET FREE WITH A CLEAN RECORD
DID THIS ELIMINATE CRIME? MAYBE, BUT THAT WASN'T THE POINT, ANYWAY
BY THE WAY, THIS PRACTISE WAS ABOLISHED AFTER WWII.
OF COURSE, THE MEN WHO ISSUED THE CHALLENGES WERE MEMBERS OF THE DIVINE KNIGHTS!

THEY SAY THAT EACH GENERAL OF THE DIVINE KNIGHTS...
...HAD AN ASTONISHING WIN RECORD OF 100%.
SO WHEN THE 16TH GENERAL DIED,
THE KNIGHTS LOST THEIR COHESION, SETTING OFF AN INTERNAL STRUGGLE
YASMENT GODTOUCHED
DIED AGED 58
ANNABELLE GODTOUCHED
AGE 26
AND THUS THE KING CALLED KENSUKE, HIS OLD ACQUAINTANCE, FOR SOME HELP TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION.
YOU ARE KIRA?
SO KIRA WAS AS-SIGNED

AND I THOUGHT ALL JAPANESE WERE SHORT
YEP, I'M KIRA. SURPRISE! ♡
AND I THOUGHT I'D BE WECOMED BY SOME BLOOD-THIRSTY WARRIOR
AND I FIND THE LOVELY SURPRISE OF A BEAUTIFUL LADY LIKE YOU ♡
DEAR PRINCESS, YOUR TARGET FOR US

WHERE IS HE?
HANS GELIN
(AGE 24)
OHO...
...
YOU WANNA TRY TO FIGHT A GUN WITH A SWORD?
HEH.

A WARRIOR WITH RED EYES
FIRE, AND YOU SHALL SEE.
HMPH!

!!
HE CAN DODGE BUL-LETS?!

LET'S SEE HOW YOU DEAL WITH AN MP5!

DAMMIT! WHY DON'T THE BULLETS HIT HIM?!
SHIFT

CAN'T CATCH A CAR ON FOOT CAN YOU?
HEH HEH
DA FUK?!
ARE YOU FREAKIN' KIDDING ME?!

Skreeeh!
ARE YOU A KODAMA OR WHAT!?
JEEZ!
?!
URG!
CLANG!
?

..YOU DESERTED YOUR COMRADES AND RAN AWAY?
SO...
I WAS TOLD THAT THE JAPANESE SAMURAIS HAD AS MUCH HONOR AS OUR KNIGHTS.
I AM NO SAMURAI.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU FORGET TO MENTION THAT HE WAS A MONSTER
THAT GUY WAS DEFEATING GUNS WITH A SWORD! HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO WIN?
ALL RIGHT. I SUPPOSE I SHOULD EXPLAIN A FEW THINGS.
BRING A GUN AND FOLLOW ME!
?

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
YOU'RE ASKING ME TO FIRE AT YOU?!
HOLD ON!
YOUR SHOW OF CONFI-DENCE IS UTTERLY CHARMING
RE-ALLY? FINE
I CAN DODGE ALL THE SHOTS FOR SURE!
DON'T WORRY JUST FIRE!
DON'T BLAME ME IF YOU GET HURT
CLICK!

Crack!
Wah hh!
YOU KNIGHTS ARE MAGICIANS AS WELL?!
I GUESS THAT FITS THE STORIES!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING
I CAN OBSERVE YOUR MUSCLE MOVEMENTS
AND FROM THOSE, I CAN PREDICT YOUR ACTIONS
THAT IS STANDARD TRAINING FOR US KNIGHTS
HOWEVER, AGAINST GUNS IT IS LESS EFFECTIVE
AS FOR HANS GELIN, THE ONE WHO ALMOST KILLED YOU
HE IS A FORMER COMRADE OF MINE

BUT THEN THE GENERAL OF THE DIVINE KNIGHTS DIED.
IN THE ORDER, MY BROTHERS-IN-ARMS WERE YASHUBI...
...AND HANS, THE YOUNGEST.
WE WERE INSEPARABLE AND THE CLOSEST OF FRIENDS.
HANS CHANGED A LOT AFTER THAT.
YASHUBI, I CHALLENGE YOU FOR THE POSITION OF GENERAL!

THE TWO OF THEM WOULDN'T LISTEN TO ME, SO I FOUGHT.
WE DETERMINED THE NEW OFFICERS WITH THE TOURNAMENT LAST MONTH!
HANS! HAVE YOU GONE MAD?!
I COULDN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH HANS HAD IMPROVED OVER A MONTH.
HE SEEMED LIKE A DEMON ON EARTH.
BECAUSE OF THAT DUEL, MY FIANCE DIED,
AND I HAD TO EXILE HANS FROM THE ORDER AS WELL.
ANNA BELLE

...
LOOK AT THE SADNESS ON YOUR FACE
!
ALTHOUGH YOU ARE TOTALLY CHARMING
IN THIS MOOD AS WELL,
I STILL PREFER TO SEE A SMILE ON YOUR FACE
PLEASE
HAVE SOME GODDAMN RESPECT!
AH HH!!

HAI-YAA!
DON'T MISUN-DER-STAND!!
I HAVE A PLAN!
GRRRRR
HOLD ON!
I HAVE A PLAN?
?!

I CAN BEAT HIM
JUST PER-HAPS
PER-HAPS
...!
RABBIT-EYE

SIR HANS
I THINK I ALREADY PROVED THAT YOUR GUN IS USELESS, RIGHT?
AIM
HAVE YOU BEEN INJECTING BLOOD INTO YOUR EYES? HEH.

COME NOW
I KNOW NOW THAT YOUR EYES ARE RED FROM A DRUG YOU USE, CORRECT?
WHAT?
IT'S THIS ONE, YES?
!!

RABBIT-EYE IS THE NAME?
TAKE THIS DRUG, YOUR EYES GO RED
THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED RABBIT-EYE
I THINK THE US ARMY DEVELOPED THIS FOR AFGHANISTAN.
IT TRIPLES THE SPEED OF YOUR NEURONS
NONETHELESS,
I WOULD RECOMMEND YOU STOP TAKING THIS.
BECAUSE IF YOU KEEP THIS UP

...IT'LL BE YOUR FUNERAL.
...
VROOM
I DON'T NEED YOUR WORRIES.
YOU SHOULD TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
SHALL WE?
GEEZ, SO STUBBORN.
THEN LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.

BRING IT!
CLICK!

AS LONG AS I DON'T USE ANY OF MY MUSCLES,
ALL OF YOUR TRAINING TO PREDICT ACTIONS FROM MUSCLE MOVEMENT BECOMES USELESS
YOU RELY TOO MUCH ON YOUR OBSERVATION SKILLS
HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?
HOW
tink
BECAUSE I DON'T WANT ANNABELLE TO BE WITH ANOTHER MAN
NOW, I HAVE A QUESTION
WHY WOULD A KNIGHT TAKE THOSE DRUGS?
I GUESS SOME MEN...
...JUST CAN'T BE SAVED.
...

♫
VROOM
ANNA-BELLE
WHY DIDN'T YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I HAD TO SAY?
YASHUB!
HANS
WHY...?

AH HH ...
I SEE NOW
AND NOW YOU LEAVE ME ALONE LIKE THIS
WOMEN TOO,
ARE POWER-LESS IN THE END

BLACK JOKE

BLACK JOKE

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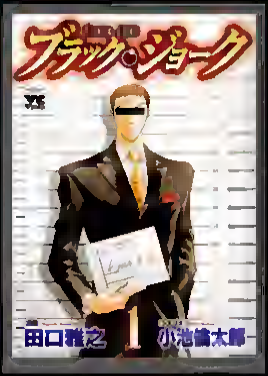
by KOIKE Rintarou and TAGUCHI Masayuki



Black Joke ch26

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BLACK JOKE
A STORY OF PURE DEDUCTION
<heh-heh?
CHAPTER 27:
THE MANSION'S PHANTOM LIMB 1

MY DEAR KIRA...
THE AOYANAGI GROUP IS A VALUED CLIENT OF OUR HOTEL. THE YOUNG HEIR IS INVOLVED IN A TRULY BIZARRE MURDER
WELL, ACTUALLY LET'S CALL IT A SUPER NATURAL MYSTERY
Glare

CHAPTER 27: THE MANSION'S PHANTOM LIMB 1

THANK YOU ♡
YOU'RE VERY WELCOME HERE, MR KIRA
THEY ARE EXPECTING YOU INSIDE
KEEP OUT
...
THAT WOULD BE THE HEIR, TENMA-SAMA
..
IT'S TRULY UPSETTING. ON A STORMY NIGHT, THE YOUNG MASTER SUDDENLY FELL FROM THE SECOND FLOOR.
THE POLICE HAVE DECLARED IT AN ACCIDENTAL DEATH. HOWEVER...
ROYANAGI TENMA
17 YEARS OLD

ROYANAGI KAITO
(13 YEARS OLD)
I DID IT
I USED THIS RIGHT HAND AND
PUSHED MY BROTHER OUT THE WINDOW
?
KAITO! PLEASE, WELCOME YOUR GUESTS PROPERLY BEFORE—
DON'T YOU SEE THIS?
LOOK AT THIS - MY REPULSIVE RIGHT HAND

*ONII-CHAN = BIG BROTHER

THE ONE WHO KILLED ONII-CHAN
WAS ME
ONII-CHAN
MMPH
A MASTER-CLASS DETECTIVE?

DAD, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?! I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!
I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE THAT. FOR VARIOUS REASONS, MY YOUNG SON IS A LITTLE DISTURBED.
SUCH A SHAMEFUL SIGHT.

WHY DOESN'T ANYONE BELIEVE ME?
MY APOLOGIES, MR. AOYANAGI.
AND ALSO, PARDON ME
BUT PLEASE DON'T SMOKE IN FRONT OF ME.
AOYANAGI GENICHIROU
(47 YEARS OLD)

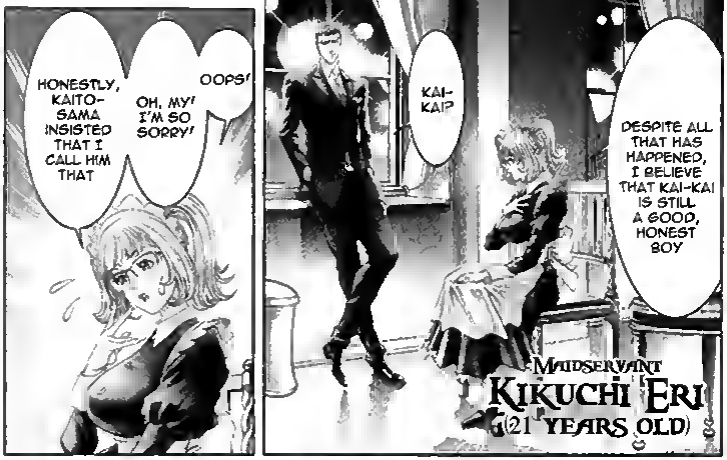
WELL THEN...
LET'S HEAR WHAT EVERYONE HAS TO SAY. AFTER ALL,
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE A DETECTIVE.

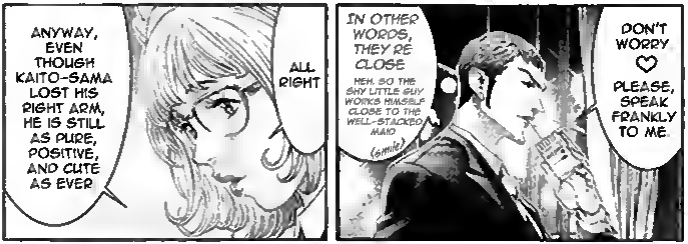
IT WAS SUCH A HEART-BREAKING ACCIDENT
LOOKING BACK, THE ACCIDENT WAS THE START OF ALL OF THIS HOUSE-HOLD'S MIS-FORTUNE
BUTLER
YAHAGI YOSHITSUGU
(59 YEARS OLD)
IT HAP-PENED FIFTEEN MONTHS AGO.
KAITO-SAMA WAS PLAYING WITH A NEW PRODUCT FROM GENICHIROU-SAMA'S COMPANY
HE WAS SO ABSORBED BY IT,
HE RUSHED INTO THE ROAD BEFORE HE KNEW IT...

...AND LOST HIS ARM IN THE PROCESS. THAT RIGHT ARM WAS STILL GRIPPING THE HANDLEBARS TIGHTLY
...HE COLLIDED WITH AN INCOMING TRUCK. HE WAS SENT FLYING.
Bleargh
YOUNG MASTER KAITO
ALWAYS HAD A GREAT TALENT FOR PAINTING THESE MEMORIES ARE VERY PAINFUL TO ME
THE FAIRY – JUNE 21
INDEED. IT'S SUCH A SHAME
YOU CALL THAT "PAINTING?" IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A SAPPY SHOUJO MANGA
mm-mm

HE COULD EVEN FEEL PAIN OR ITCHING FROM HIS ARM.
JUST AS IT LOOKED IN THE PAST.
THE YOUNG MASTER INSISTED THAT HE COULD SEE HIS RIGHT HAND, PERFECTLY FORMED.
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...? HE STARTED BEHAVING RATHER STRANGELY...
SINCE THE ACCIDENT, KAITO-SAMA HAS BEEN -- WELL...
OHHH.
...
...
POOR CHILD.
THE YOUNG MASTER...
HALLUCINATING?
BUT HE ALSO STARTED HALLUCINATING.
YES, HE SEES HIS MISSING RIGHT ARM.
MY DARLING SON HIS STRANGE BEHAVIOR GOES BEYOND THOSE EXAMPLES
MOYANAGI AKIKO (41 YEARS OLD)

...OR A HERD OF MINI ELEPHANTS WALKING ACROSS THE DESK.
FOR INSTANCE, HE SAID THAT HE SAW A TOWERING PINK DOLL WITH A PINK UMBRELLA WALK THROUGH A BUILDING...
BUT HE WOULD NEVER PURSUE ANY-THING
THINKING OF HIS FUTURE, WE ALSO HAD HIM TAKE ENGLISH AND PIANO LESSONS,
BUT HE NEVER DID AS WELL ACADEMI-CALLY AS HIS OLDER BROTHER
HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE AND EMOTIONAL CHILD, SO WE TOOK EXTRA CARE IN EDU-CATING HIM
SIMPLY PUT, YOU'VE ALL SPOILED HIM COM-PLETELY.
MY SYMPA-THIES, MADAM.
ALL MY EFFORT HAS GONE TO WASTE!!
HE EVEN INSISTS THAT HE KILLED TENMA!
FINALLY, WE DIS-COVERED HIS TALENT AS A PAINTER BUT THE ACCIDENT RUINED ALL THAT


Maidservant
Kikuchi Eri
(21 years old)
Despite all that has happened, I believe that Kai-kai is still a good, honest boy
Kai-kai?
Oops!
Oh, my! I'm so sorry!
Honestly, Kaito-sama insisted that I call him that


Don't worry ♡ Please, speak frankly to me.
In other words, they're close
Heh. So the spy little guy works himself close to the well-stacked maid
(smile)
All right
Anyway, even though Kaito-sama lost his right arm, he is still as pure, positive, and cute as ever

I'm fine, Eri-chi! Thanks to the accident, I've managed to see so many interesting things.
Even when Tenma-sama made fun of him.
Thank God you were the one in the accident. Can you imagine if it was me? I bet the Koya-nagi household would have crumbled.
Should I give God a... thumbs up?
Bow-to-to...

KAI-KAI DEFINITELY DID NOT LIE

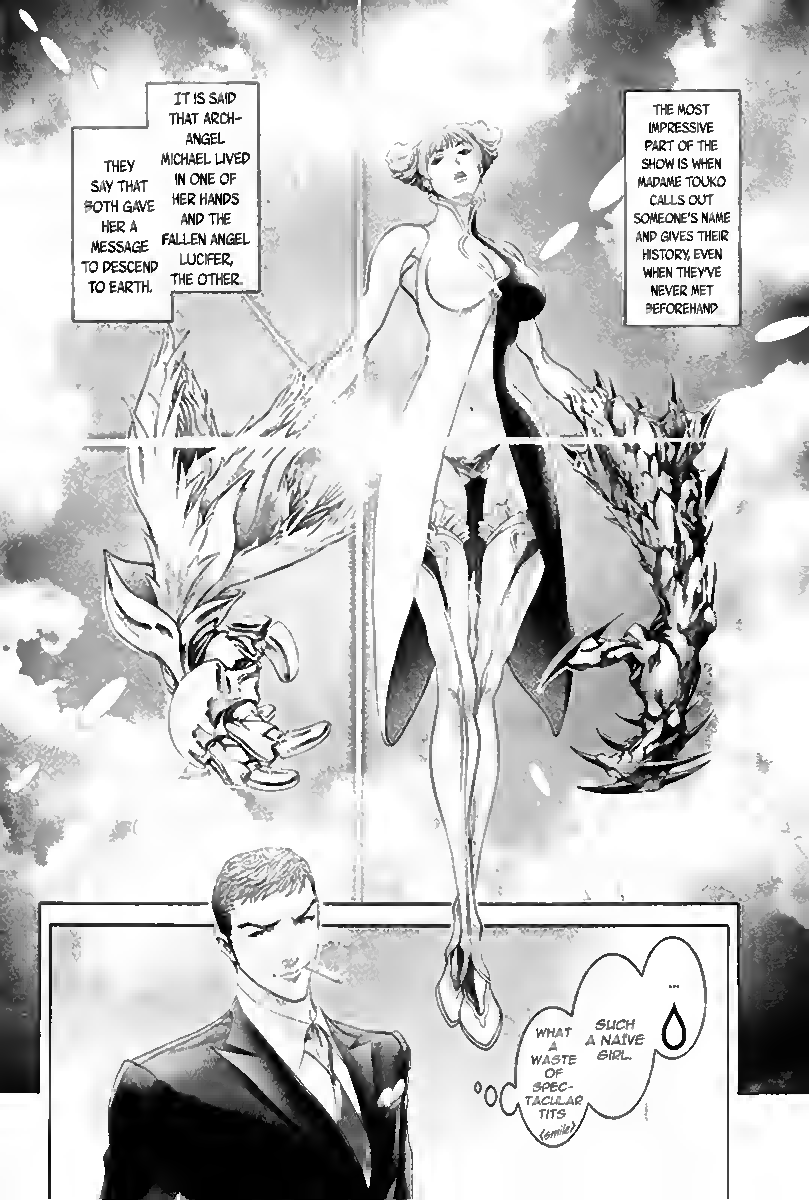
YOU KNOW, I THINK...

I THINK HE EXPERIENCED A REBIRTH!
HE UNDERWENT MAJOR SURGERY FOR BRAIN INJURIES, AND WAS CONFINED TO THE HOSPITAL FOR A LONG TIME AFTERWARDS.
KAI-KAI INJURED FAR MORE THAN HIS RIGHT ARM IN THAT ACCIDENT.

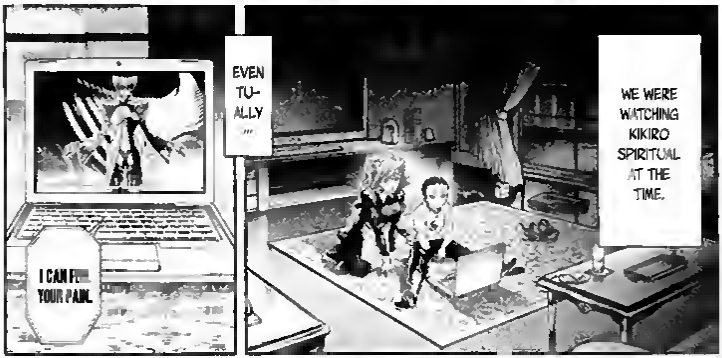
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT YOUR VIEW OF THE WORLD CHANGES DRASTICALLY AFTER A CLOSE BRUSH WITH DEATH.
JUST THINK ABOUT IT!

MYSTERIOUS
THIS IS TRULY

I KNOW, I KNOW. IT SOUNDS SO UNBELIEVABLE
HOWEVER, ONCE YOU'VE WATCHED MADAME TOUKO'S PROGRAM—
YES, MADAME TOUKO! SHE'S A FAMOUS FORTUNE TELLER
KAI-KAI LIKES HER A LOT, TOO!
TOUKO?
?
"KIRIKO SPIRITUAL" IS HER SPECIAL PROGRAM, LIVE ON TV AND ONLINE EVERY FRIDAY.
SHE'S PUT OUT AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY, A NOVEL, CDS - ALL KINDS OF STUFF
BUT, OF COURSE, HER BIGGEST THING IS HER AMAZING SPIRITUAL POWERS.


THEY SAY THAT BOTH GAVE HER A MESSAGE TO DESCEND TO EARTH.
IT IS SAID THAT ARCH-ANGEL MICHAEL LIVED IN ONE OF HER HANDS AND THE FALLEN ANGEL LUCIFER, THE OTHER.
THE MOST IMPRESSIVE PART OF THE SHOW IS WHEN MADAME TOUKO CALLS OUT SOMEONE'S NAME AND GIVES THEIR HISTORY, EVEN WHEN THEY'VE NEVER MET BEFOREHAND
...
SUCH A NAIVE GIRL.
WHAT A WASTE OF SPEC-TACULAR TITS (smile)

?!
...SHE ACCURATELY ANNOUNCED ALL THAT HAPPENED TO KAI-KAI.
AND ALSO


I CAN FEEL YOUR PAIN.
EVEN TU-ALLY ...
WE WERE WATCHING KIKIRO SPIRITUAL AT THE TIME.

YOUR NAME IS...
YOUR NAME ...
WILL BRING MISFOR-TUNE TO YOU — AND THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.
BUT YOU MUST BEWARE! THIS PAIN AND MISERY
YOU LOST A LIMB IN A SERIOUS ACCIDENT.

AOYA-
NAGI
KAITO.
!
MM...
!
EVER
SINCE
THEN...
KAI-
KAI?!
M-ME?!
AND
THAT
RIGHT
HAND
KAI-KAI'S
RIGHT HAND
SEEMS TO
HAVE
BECOME
DEMONIC.
URG
GG-
GG!!
JUMP

...HAS THE ABILITY TO SHAKE THIS WHOLE MANSION.
HOLD IT!
?
SHAKE THE MANSION?
YOU MEAN LITERALLY?
AN ACTUAL SHAKING?
NOT DUE TO AN EARTHQUAKE?
...
SO FAR, IT'S HAPPENED THRICE.
IT'S THE TRUTH!
SINCE THEN, THE TREMORS COME WHENEVER WE WATCH MADAME TOUKO'S PROGRAM.

AND, UM, IT...
...IT WAS THAT THIRD TIME.
THAT WAS THE NIGHT IT HAP-PENED...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAY-ING?!
KAITO!
...THAT AWFUL ACCIDENT!!
SO...
YOU CLAIM THAT YOU ARE CAUSING THE TREMORS?!

BUT MADAME TOUKO SAID THAT THIS ARM WILL BRING MISFORTUNE TO ALL OF US...
STOP WATCHING THAT PROGRAM!!
YOU'RE BEING BRAINWASHED BY THAT PROGRAM!! YOU IDIOT!!
NOW YOU THINK YOU HAVE SOME SPECIAL ABILITY?!
DID THE ACCIDENT SCREW UP YOUR BRAIN, TOO?!
PLEASE DON'T ACT THIS WAY! TENMA-SAMA!
AH!
I'M TELLING YOU! BELIEVE ME, YOU'RE NOTHING SPECIAL!!
?!
?!
MMM!
URG GGG !!!

MY RIGHT HAND!! IT'S CHANG-ING!!
DANGER! ONII-CHAN!! QUICK - ESCAPE!!!

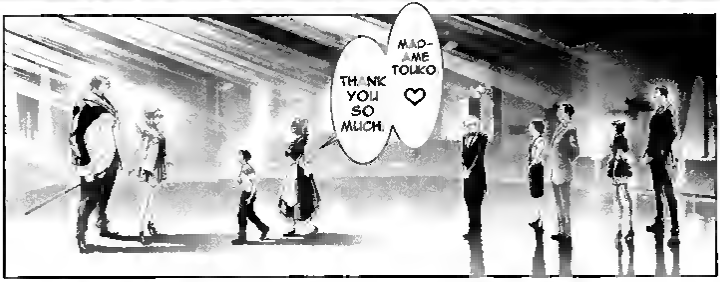
ESCAPE NOW!!!

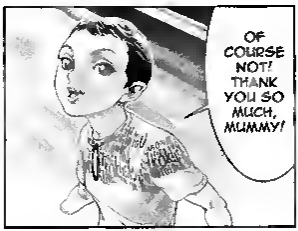
HE REALLY WANTED TO KEEP TENMA-SAMA FROM HARM
KAI-KAI, HE...
...
Skid

open
NITOU SHINJI
(35 YEARS OLD)

!
MA-D-AME
WAH!
MADAME TOUKO☆

AOYA-NAGI KAITO,
I HAVE COME TO OFFER YOU SALVATION.
MIDORI TOUKO
(27 YEARS OLD)


MAD-AME TOUKO ♡
THANK YOU SO MUCH.


OF COURSE NOT! THANK YOU SO MUCH, MUMMY!

AKIKO, DID YOU INVITE THAT LADY?
YES. I THOUGHT THAT WOULD CHEER KAITO UP.
WAS THAT A MIS-TAKE?

EVEN A SPIRIT MEDIUM NEEDS TO TAKE GREAT CARE OF THEIR APPEARANCE THESE DAYS
Ha-ha
AH, I SEE

I'VE ASKED HIM TO SOLVE THIS CASE FOR ME
THIS IS MR KIRA, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE HOTEL I FREQUENT

AND YOU ARE ?
...

...BUT YOU HAVE A HARD TIME ACCEPTING REALITY AND SO YOU USE THE SHALLOW THINGS IN LIFE TO PROTECT YOURSELF
YOU LOOK CALM AND COLLECTED ON THE SURFACE..
THAT INDICATES THAT YOU HAVE A STRONG URGE TO SHOW OFF

MR KIRA, YOUR BODY IS EMITTING A PURPLISH-RED GLOW

?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
SO, YOU TRY TO GAIN THE UPPER HAND BY ATTACKING OTHERS WITH YOUR PRECONCEPTIONS?
UH-HUH (smile)
SPIRITUALIST DEBUNKER,
ONE WHO EXPOSES SO-CALLED SUPERNATURAL EVENTS. (smile)
THIS IS MY NEWLY COINED TITLE. ♡

...
YOU DO HAVE A WAY WITH WORDS, MR. KIRA
HEH
BUT THEN AGAIN, YOUR PRECONCEP-TIONS MAY HAVE BEEN RIGHT
THIS IS GETTING INTER-ESTING
AND SO STARTS OUR STORY OF PURE DEDUCTION?

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by KOIKE Rintarou and TAGUCHI Masayuki

Black Joke ch27

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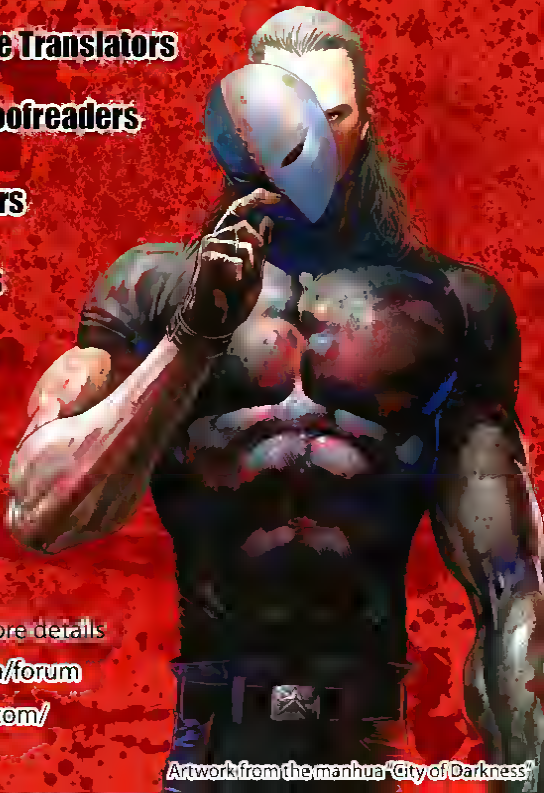


Artwork from the manhua "City of Darkness"

BLACK•JOKE
A STORY OF PURE DEDUCTION
GRADE-B MANGA
(heh-heh)
CHAPTER 28:
THE MANSION'S PHANTOM LIMB 2
ARTWORK
MASAYUKI TAGUCHI
WRITING
MASAYUKI TAGUCHI with
the collaboration of RINTARO KOIKE

THIS IS MY NEWLY COINED TITLE ♡
SPIRIT-UALIST DERUNKER ...
ONE WHO EXPOSES SO-CALLED SUPER-NATURAL EVENTS (smile)
YOU DO HAVE A WAY WITH WORDS, MR KIRA
YOU ARE CLEARLY THE ONES BUTTING INTO OUR BUSINESS HERE
HEH! YOU, BUILT LIKE A GRAVE DIGGER
...SHOW A LITTLE RESPECT FOR TOUKO-SAMA, AND BUTT OUT.
HEY! YOU, DRESSED LIKE AN UNDER-TAKER...

!!
land
swish!

(sigh)

NITOU!!
Clink

Ni-i-itou.
!
STOP THIS, NITOU
<smooch>
<smooch>
<smooch>
<smooch>
<smooch>
<smooch>
<smooch>
<smooch>
<smooch>
<smooch>
<smooch>
AHHH!

resheathe
IS THAT KISS SOUND SOME KIND OF SPELL?
ALL RIGHT THEN -
PLEASE LEAVE THIS CASE IN MY HANDS!

I WILL SURELY SAVE YOUNG KAITO. ♡
WELL, EVERY-ONE...
...IS HERE WITH US RIGHT?

I'VE SPECIALLY PRE-RECORDED TONIGHT'S EPISODE
MADAME TOUKO, ISN'T YOUR PROGRAM STARTING SOON? I REMEMBER THAT IT'S A LIVE BROADCAST
BUT WITH YOU HERE?
THAT'S WEIRD
USTREAM
KIRIKO SPIRITUAL
KIRIKO SPIRITUAL
I PREDICTED ALL THIS BEFOREHAND
BECAUSE OF YOUR MISERY, TONIGHT THIS MANSION
WILL START TO TREMBLE AND SHAKE
I'M SO SORRY, KAITO, FOR THIS CONVOLUTED METHOD ♡
DOES THIS BOTHER YOU?
PLEASE BE UNDERSTANDING
I NEED TO CONVINCE EVERYONE OF MY POWERS
WHAT IF ANOTHER TERRIBLE ACCIDENT HAPPENS?
OH NO! IT'S GOING TO START SHAKING AGAIN?
NO WORRIES, I WILL PERSONALLY PUT A STOP TO IT ♡

!
EVERY-ONE HERE MUST FULLY TRUST ME BEFORE I CAN SAVE YOU
MR SKEPTIC OVER THERE WILL DEFI-NITELY NOT CO-OPER-ATE
OTHER-WISE...
...
I RECALL YOU CALLING YOURSELF THE--- SPIRITUALIST DEBUNKER?
Ha ha.
Umph.
!
THE PRO-GRAM IS START-ING SOON!
HEY, KAI-KAI, MADAME TOUKO,
<Hug>
...
WELL, THEN
...

...KAITO'S SUFFERINGS VERY CLEARLY.
...I CAN SENSE...
TONIGHT ...
LET'S GET STARTED.
KIRIKO'S RITUAL
HIS PAIN HAS STRENGTHENED!
AND IT HAS REACHED ITS PEAK!!

I CAN HEAR YOUR CRIES!!
...
HMPH SO MUCH FOR HER PREDIC-TIONS
NO-THING HAPPEN-ED AT ALL!
HMM?

ゴゴゴゴ
WA-A-A-AH?!!
THIS CAN'T BE!

NOW, STOP!!

...
IT STOPPED?
MADAME TOUKO, YOU ARE AWESOME!
REALLY AWESOME!
MADAME TOU---

MADAME TOUKO'S SPIRITUAL POWER IS DEFINITELY AUTHENTIC!!
SO, YOU'RE SAYING,
EVEN IF WE IMAGED HIS BRAIN AND LOOKED FOR THE NERVE CENTER FOR HIS AMPUTATED ARM, HIS PHANTOM LIMB,
...IT WILL HAVE MOVED.
THE CONTROLS FOR THE FIVE SENSES HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY REARRANGED.

IN OTHER WORDS, HIS HALLUCINATIONS ARE INTEGRATED INTO HIS REORGANIZED BRAIN
SIMPLY PUT, THE LIMB'S SENSATIONS HAVE BEEN REMAPPED TO AN AREA ALONG HIS JAW
GOT IT, MR KIRA?
SO THAT'S IT
THE KEY TO THIS 21ST CENTURY MYSTERY IS IN HIS BRAIN
THANKS TO YOU, PROFESSOR CHRISTINE, I'VE LEARNT A GREAT DEAL ♡
THEN, MR KIRA ♡

DO YOU NEED MY GUIDANCE FOR ANYTHING ELSE?
A WISE MAN ALWAYS KEEPS LEARNING NEW THINGS ♡
(smile)
...
STICK

CRIT
tiiing
pluck
...

!
Beep
26/Oct/20xx
From: Akari Kuroki
It's just like you said.

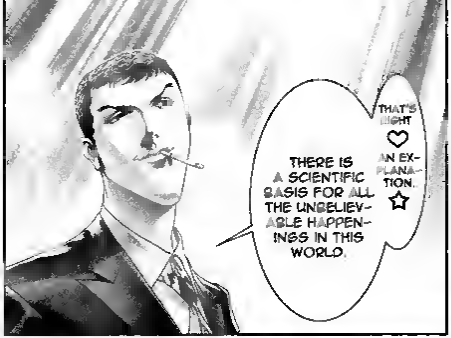
OK

!
YOU CAN SEE THE SPIRIT'S BODY, RIGHT, KAITO?
♡

MAD-AME TOUKO!
YOU CAN SEE IT TOO? THAT'S AWE-SOME!
NO
I CAN'T SEE THE SPIRIT WORLD THROUGH YOUR EYES
BUT I CAN SENSE IT
ERM MAD-AME TOUKO?
?
YOU SAID THAT ALL THIS MISFORTUNE IS FROM MY PAIN AND MISERY, IS THAT RIGHT?
BUT I ACTUALLY FEEL OKAY WITH MYSELF, WHY?
LISTEN WELL, KAITO
SOME SUFFERING IS BURIED IN THE DEPTHS OF YOUR HEART
I SEE...
ERM...
!

?!
OH NO! IT'S START-ING! OWW! THE ITCHING IS STARTING AGAIN!
I FEEL SUCH A HORRIBLE ITCHING FROM MY RIGHT HAND!
BUT I DON'T EVEN HAVE A RIGHT ARM ANY-MORE, SO I CAN'T SCRATCH IT AT ALL.
COME, LET ME TREAT YOU (smile)
I KNOW A LITTLE MAGIC
IS IT AROUND THIS AREA?
scratch scratch
MR KIRA?!
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING? MR KIRA, IT'S MY ARM THAT ITCHES.
scratch scratch

BUT... HOW WEIRD...
?
YES, SEE, THAT'S MY MAGIC.
(crumb)
(crumb)
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S, IT'S REALLY WORK-ING
MR. KIRA, COULD YOU HAVE SPIRITU-AL POWERS AS WELL?
HEH HEH
LISTEN UP, KIDDO.
(smile)
THIS "SPELL" ACTUALLY HAS A SCIENTIFIC BASIS


THERE IS A SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR ALL THE UNBELIEVABLE HAPPENINGS IN THIS WORLD.
THAT'S RIGHT ♡ AN EXPLANATION. ☆

THEN IT'S NOT REALLY A SPELL, BUT A MAGIC TRICK.
EH? AN EXPLANATION? ☆

EH?!
AND THAT INCLUDES THE STRANGE OCCURRENCES HERE

NOW, LET ME REVEAL THE TRUTH. ♡

Press
HERE YOU GO
MR K-KIRA?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
EH?!
THIS IS THE CREATURE LIVING IN YOUR BRAIN
THIS HORRIBLE MONSTER IS LIVING IN MY BRAIN RIGHT NOW?!

YEAH
...
AN ARTIFICIAL CHARACTER CREATED BY PENFIELD
AND THE AMAZING CREATURE WILL EXPLAIN ALL THESE CRAZY INCIDENTS
☆

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by KOIKE Rintarou and TAGUCHI Masayuki

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GRADE-B MANGA

(heh-heh)

RATED M FOR MATURE

BLACK JOKE

CHAPTER 29:

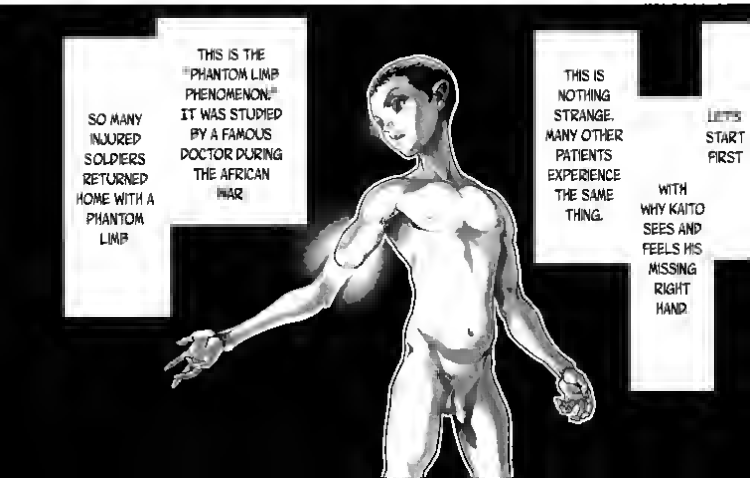
THE MANSION'S PHANTOM LIMB

A STORY OF PURE DEDUCTION

003

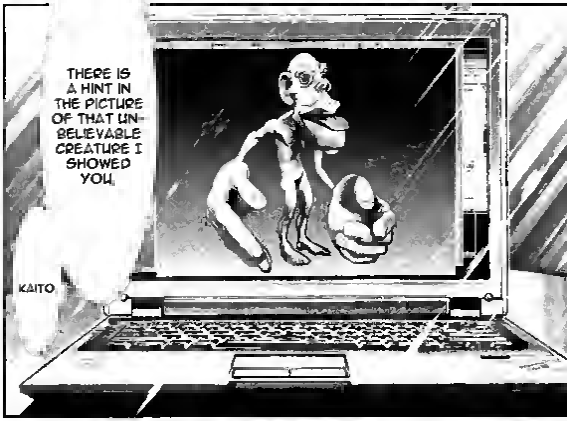
OK♡

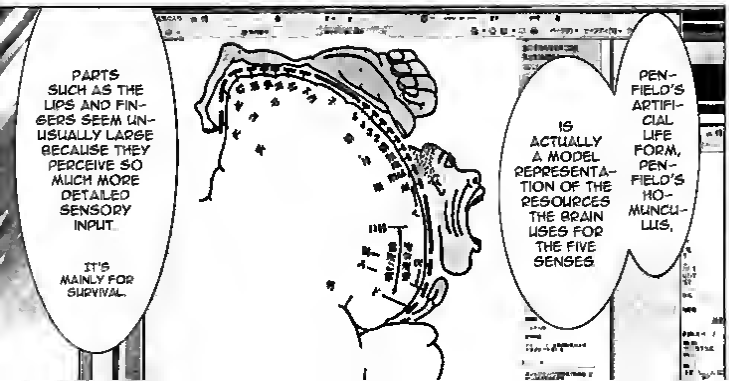
I'M GOING TO EXPLAIN THESE ODD EVENTS IN THREE PARTS
NOW THAT WE ARE ALL GATHERED HERE,
I'M GRATE-FUL, MR. AOYA-NAGI.
I BELIEVE THAT HELPS YOUR CON-CENTRA-TION?
..PLEASE DO GO AHEAD AND SMOKE.
MR. KIRA, IF YOU HAVE TRULY SOLVED THIS TROUBLING MYSTERY,


SO MANY INJURED SOLDIERS RETURNED HOME WITH A PHANTOM LIMB
THIS IS THE "PHANTOM LIMB PHENOMENON." IT WAS STUDIED BY A FAMOUS DOCTOR DURING THE AFRICAN WAR
THIS IS NOTHING STRANGE. MANY OTHER PATIENTS EXPERIENCE THE SAME THING.
LET'S START FIRST
WITH WHY KAITO SEES AND FEELS HIS MISSING RIGHT HAND

NOW THEN, WHY WOULD THE BRAIN TRANSMIT WRONG INFORMATION?
THAT'S BECAUSE THIS BRAIN TRANSMITS THE SENSATION.
HOW CAN KAITO FEEL A RIGHT HAND THAT NO LONGER EXISTS?

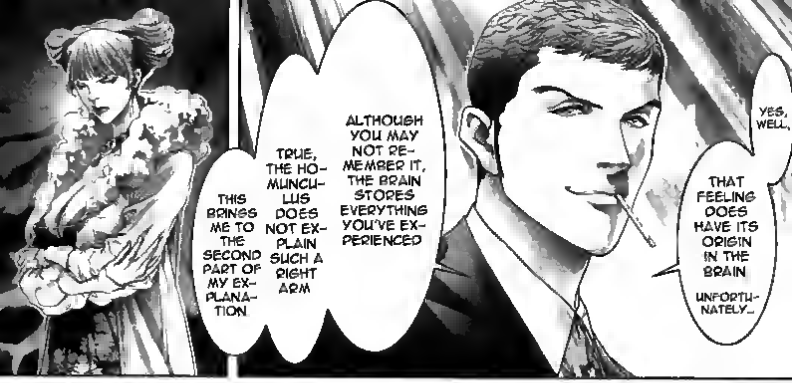
?


THERE IS A HINT IN THE PICTURE OF THAT UNBELIEVABLE CREATURE I SHOWED YOU.
KAITO.

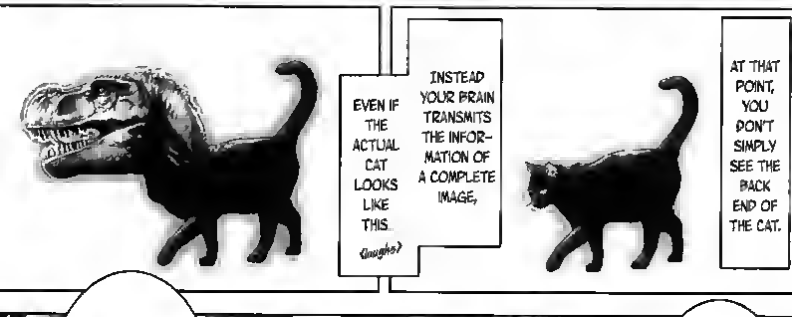

PARTS SUCH AS THE LIPS AND FINGERS SEEM UNUSUALLY LARGE BECAUSE THEY PERCEIVE SO MUCH MORE DETAILED SENSORY INPUT.
IT'S MAINLY FOR SURVIVAL.
IS ACTUALLY A MODEL REPRESENTATION OF THE RESOURCES THE BRAIN USES FOR THE FIVE SENSES.
PENFIELD'S ARTIFICIAL LIFE FORM, PENFIELD'S HOMUNCULUS.

NOW YOU'VE LOST YOUR RIGHT HAND, BUT THE HOMUNCULUS IN YOUR BRAIN STILL RETAINS THAT RIGHT HAND. SO HOW DOES IT ADAPT?
THE NEXT EXPLANATION IS MORE COMPLEX.
AH...
PUT SIMPLY, EVEN IF YOU'VE LOST YOUR RIGHT HAND, YOUR BRAIN STILL RETAINS THE SENSATION OF THAT LIMB.
THUS, YOUR PHANTOM LIMB WAS REASSIGNED TO AN AREA ALONG YOUR JAW.
IT'S EQUIVALENT TO REORGANIZING THE BRAIN.
THE SENSATIONS OF THE MISSING HAND ARE MERGED INTO THE SENSATIONS OF A NEIGHBORING BODY PART.
WHEN THE BRAIN DOESN'T TRUST ITSELF, BUT STILL TRIES ITS HARDEST TO DEAL WITH A SITUATION, IT WILL ADOPT IMPERFECT METHODS.
LET ME SHARE AN INTERESTING FACT WITH EVERYONE.
OH! RIGHT,
BASED ON THIS, I COULD SCRATCH THE ITCH THAT YOU FELT IN YOUR PHANTOM HAND.
(laugh)

MANY PATIENTS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR PENIS TO CANCER CAN STILL FEEL AN ERECTION OCCASIONALLY
IN THAT CASE, FOR RELIEF, WHERE IS MOST EFFECTIVE PLACE TO STIMULATE?
THE CORRECT ANSWER WOULD BE THE FEET WHICH ARE MAPPED NEAR THE GENITALS
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT KNOWING ABOUT PHANTOM LIMBS CAN LEAD TO SEX WITH THE FEET?
(laugh)
.....
(cough)
!
MY APOLOGIES
BUT...
KAI-KAI SAID HIS RIGHT HAND TURNED HIDEOUS
THAT FEELING DIDN'T ARISE FROM HIS BRAIN, DID IT?


YES, WELL...
THAT FEELING DOES HAVE ITS ORIGIN IN THE BRAIN
UNFORTUNATELY...
ALTHOUGH YOU MAY NOT REMEMBER IT, THE BRAIN STORES EVERYTHING YOU'VE EXPERIENCED
TRUE, THE HOMUNCULUS DOES NOT EXPLAIN SUCH A RIGHT ARM
THIS BRINGS ME TO THE SECOND PART OF MY EXPLANATION

FOR INSTANCE, SAY YOU TURN THE CORNER AND SEE A CAT THAT IS PARTIALLY BLOCKED BY A WALL.
AS I SAID EARLIER, YOUR BRAIN TENDS TO MODIFY MISSING INFORMATION,
OFTEN IN WAYS YOU CAN'T CONTROL.


EVEN IF THE ACTUAL CAT LOOKS LIKE THIS.
(laughs)
INSTEAD YOUR BRAIN TRANSMITS THE INFORMATION OF A COMPLETE IMAGE,
AT THAT POINT, YOU DON'T SIMPLY SEE THE BACK END OF THE CAT.

THEREFORE, IT WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION TO FORM A COMPLETE IMAGE
THE BRAIN BASICALLY HATES EMPTY SPACES,
THIS GENERAL PROCESS IS CALLED "INSERTION."

AS FOR KAITO, I HEARD THAT HIS BRAIN TOOK SUCH A JOLT THAT HE HAD TO STAY IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A LONG TIME
IT'S LIKELY THAT HIS OPTIC NERVE WAS DAMAGED IN THE ACCIDENT.

WITH PARTIAL DAMAGE TO THE VISUAL SYSTEM,
A PERSON'S FIELD OF VISION IS AFFECTED, CREATING A SHADOW IN THEIR VISION.

DISLIKING INCOMPLETE IMAGES, THE BRAIN WILL TRY ITS BEST TO COPE WITH THE SUDDEN CHANGE,
BUT SITUATIONS LIKE THAT ARE DEFINITELY HARD TO HANDLE.
AND SO, TO COPE, KAITO'S BRAIN INSERTED...
(IT WAS BEYOND HIS CONTROL.)

...ALL THOSE OOO SUPER-NATURAL IMAGES!!
HOWEVER, SOME, LIKE KAITO, SEE INCREDIBLE AND UNBELIEVABLE IMAGES AS WELL.
ITS VICTIMS OFTEN SEE UNFAMILIAR PEOPLE AND OBJECTS, LIKE BOTTLES, HATS OR OTHER EVERYDAY ITEMS.
THIS FORM OF HALLUCINATION IS CALLED "BONNET SYNDROME."*

* HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/CHARLES_BONNET_SYNDROME

YOUNG MASTER KAITO, HOWEVER, IS SO INNOCENT THAT HE DOESN'T FEAR SUCH JUDGEMENT.
NO ONE WANTS OTHERS TO THINK THEY'RE SOME KIND OF WEIRDO. (smile)
AND THAT'S BECAUSE

...MAY SOMETIMES BE EXPLOITED BY CUNNING ADULTS...
HOWEVER, SUCH "INNOCENCE"
FOR INSTANCE, BY MANIPULATING THE SUBCONSCIOUS,
OR WORSE, BY BRAINWASHING
<sigh>
AFTER ALL...
I AM THE SPIRITUALIST DEBUNKER
<smile>

James Thurber
AN AMERICAN NAMED JAMES THURBER
HAD BONNET SYNDROME LIKE YOU. BUT HE BECAME A FAMOUS CARTOONIST DUE TO THE INCREDIBLE THINGS HE SAW
♡
BUT DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN, KAITO-SAMA
!
...AND SHE'S A BEAUTY.
AND I HAVE MORE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU.
♡
I'VE FOUND A GREAT SPECIALIST DOCTOR FOR YOU...
!
INDEED, SIR.
THAT PHENOMENON IS WHAT... CAUSED YOUNG MASTER TENMA... TO...
YES, SO NOW I UNDERSTAND KAITO'S PROBLEMS, AND I'LL TAKE THE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS
HOWEVER, YOU HAVE YET TO EXPLAIN THE GREATEST MYSTERY - THE REASON FOR THE TREMORS

THE FINAL PART OF MY EXPLANATION
YES THAT BRINGS ME TO MY THIRD POINT

ANYWAY, YOU ARE CONNECTED AS A FAMILY
ON TOP OF THAT, YOU ALL LIVE UNDER THE SAME ROOF
WITH SIMILAR BEHAVIORS
OR MAYBE IT'S THE POWER OF GENES?
YOU SEE, YOU ALL LOVE KAITO.

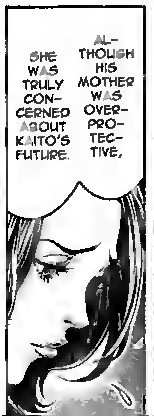
YEAH.
FAMILY.

FAMILY?
GENES?

AND SHOW KAITO EVEN MORE CONCERN THAN FAMILY MEMBERS.

THE SERVANTS LOYALLY SERVE THE AOYANAGIS,

HANDLING MATTERS CALMLY.
HIS FATHER ALWAYS MAINTAINED A SENSE OF AUTHORITY, KEEPING HIS COOL,


SHE WAS TRULY CONCERNED ABOUT KAITO'S FUTURE.
ALTHOUGH HIS MOTHER WAS OVERPROTECTIVE,

HE SINCERELY WANTED TO CORRECT HIS YOUNGER BROTHER'S HALLUCINATIONS
TRUE TENMA-SAMA FLARED UP AT KAITO, BUT HE WAS UNDER STRESS FROM THE FAMILY BUSINESS

FRANK-LY,
.....!
HMPH
WHAT A CARE-FREE LIFE.
THAT'S WHY,
THEY ALL WATCH MS TOUKO'S ONLINE BROAD-CAST.
SPIRITUAL
.. EVERY SINGLE PERSON IS ..
VERY WOR-RIED
ABOUT KAITO
THIS IS FROM YOUR COLLECTIVE CONCERN FOR KAITO. YOU ALL WANT TO WATCH THE PROGRAM WITHOUT INTERRUP-TION
..BEFORE WATCHING THE PROGRAM, ALL OF YOU FIRST GO TO THE REST-ROOM
AS I'VE SAID PREVIOUSLY, YOU HAVE THE SAME BEHAVIORAL PATTERN, AND SO

NATURALLY, ALL OF YOU WILL FLUSH AFTERWARDS, ALL AT THE SAME TIME.
Beep
STRANGELY ENOUGH AS A RESULT
THE MAN-SION SHAKES FURI-OUSLY
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
?
AND WHY IS THAT?
THE REA-SON IS..
.....

Beep
fiiiing
THE UNDER-GROUND PLUMBING OF THIS MANSION IS DAM-AGED DUE TO
A SMALL AMOUNT OF WATER IS NOT A PRO-BLEM.
BUT THE PIPES CANNOT WITHSTAND A LARGE FLOW...
... LEA-DING TO THE TRE-MORS.
(smile)

SO, THERE YOU HAVE IT
AH!
.....

I DIDN'T KILL MY BROTHER
.....
... SO...

?!
TOUKO-SAMA, LET'S DROP IT
.....
WITH A SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE, THERE WILL BE A DEEPER EXPLANATION
KIYOSHI KIRA, YOUR EXPLANATIONS ARE MUCH TOO SHALLOW!!

IT HAS ENDED.
LET'S DROP THIS CASE.
!
Smooch
Smooch
Smooch
Smooch
Smooch
Smooch
Smooch
Smooch
Smooch
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Smooch
Smooch
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Smoooch
Smoooch
?!

MIDORI TOUKO,
I SAID LET'S DROP IT!!!
NI
NI-TOU-?
.....
.....?
SMO-OCH, EH?
KNIFE

THERE'S ACTUALLY AN "UNDER-LYING THEME" FOR THIS CASE
.....
?
A THEME?

YEAH, AN UNDER-LYING THEME.
AWWW...
AWE-SOM-MME ERI-CHI ♡
THIS FEELS SOOOO GOOD. ♡
HE-HE-HE. ♡
THAT'S RIGHT, KAI-KAI. ♡
MADAME TOUKO ♡ AND MAMA CAN'T DO THIS.

I WILL TAKE CARE OF KAI-KAI ♡
HMM.
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT?
TWISTED MATERNAL LOVE?

!
THE LEADING MAN HAS ARRIVED
WITH FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE IN TWISTED MATERNAL LOVE *
THE REAL PERPETRATOR IN THIS CASE

NITOU
SHINJI.

HEY, NITOU, ARE YOU PRETENDING TO BE SOME RETARDED MIDDLE AGED DUDE?
WHERE'S MS. TOUKO?
I KILLED HER
THAT WOMAN IS NO LONGER MOTHER
YOU IN YOUR BLACK FU-NERAL SUIT.
AND EVERYONE WHO'S CAUSED THE LOSS OF MY SUPPORT -
YOU ALL HAVE TO DIE TOO!!
WHAT??
.....
NEGA-TIVE.
?!

YOU.
YOU'RE THE ONE TO DIE
MUSCLE DUDE!

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by KOIKE Rintarou and TAGUCHI Masayuki

Black Joke ch29

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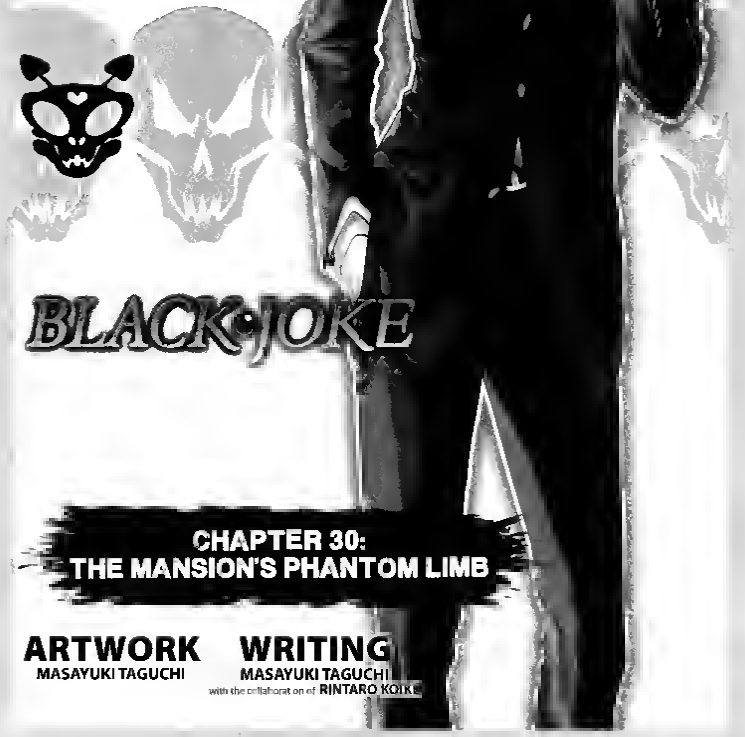
A DETECTIVE STORY OF PURE DEDUCTION

<heh-heh>

GRADE-B VIOLENCE MANGA



BLACK JOKE

CHAPTER 30: THE MANSION'S PHANTOM LIMB

ARTWORK
MASAYUKI TAGUCHI

WRITING
MASAYUKI TAGUCHI
with the collaboration of RINTARO KOIKE

KILL !!!
YOU WILL BE THE ONE TO DIE, GRAVE DIGGER.
...

ズバッ
ヒュン
ヒュン

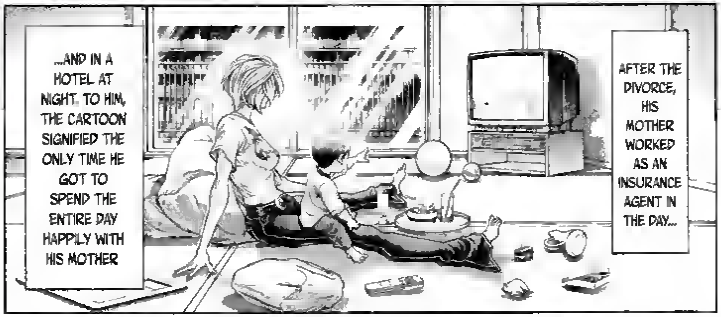
Swish!
!

ヒロイン

WUUU AAH- HHH!
NITOU SHINJI (AGE. 35)
...

HIS PARENTS DIVORCED WHEN HE WAS THREE. HOWEVER, HIS LIFE WAS STILL EXTREMELY BLISSFUL.
LIKE ALL YOUNG CHILDREN,
HE NEEDED HIS MOTHER'S SELFLESS LOVE MOST OF ALL.
IT WAS HIS MOST PRECIOUS TREASURE
AND TRULY ..
..HIS MOTHER DID PROVIDE HIM WITH PLENTY OF HAPPINESS.

HIS FAVORITE CARTOON BACK THEN...
...WAS "MIGHTY MALLARD", ON SUNDAY MORNINGS. THE HERO WAS A WRESTLER IN A DUCK MASK.


AFTER THE DIVORCE, HIS MOTHER WORKED AS AN INSURANCE AGENT IN THE DAY...
...AND IN A HOTEL AT NIGHT. TO HIM, THE CARTOON SIGNIFIED THE ONLY TIME HE GOT TO SPEND THE ENTIRE DAY HAPPILY WITH HIS MOTHER

SHIN-CHAN~ ♡
WHENEVER THE HERO WAS GOING TO SAVE THE DAY, HE WOULD MAKE A "SMOOCH SMOOCH" SOUND.
smooch
smooch
smooch

Smooch
Smooch
Smooch
Smooch
Smooch
AND SO, HIS MOTHER OFTEN IMITATED THAT SOUND.
MEMORIES FROM HIS CHILDHOOD.
ALL OF THESE ..
WERE PROBA-BLY THE MOST LASTING AND BLISS-FUL...
HIS MOTHER'S PERSON-ALITY CHANGED GREATLY THERE-AFTER.
NOT LONG AFTER THE FINAL EPISO-DE OF MIGHTY MAL-LARD,
HIS MOTHER MOVED IN WITH A YAKUZA SHE MET AT THE HOTEL.
FROM THEN BEGAN HIS HELLISH CHILD-HOOD.

HIS MOTHER FAILED TO PROVIDE HIM WITH ENOUGH FOOD, AND HIS ORIGINALLY HEALTHY APPEARANCE...
...REFLECTED HIS NEW HORRENDOUS LIFE. IN MERELY HALF A YEAR,
HIS BODY HOLLOWED OUT INTO THE FORM OF A HUNGRY GHOST.
ONE DAY, THE ADULTS WERE ON A TRIP. HE FOUND SOME CURRY POWDER CUBES IN THE KITCHEN DRAWER.
UNABLE TO STAND THE HUNGER, HE DEVOURED THEM.
COMPARED TO WHAT HIS MOTHER USED TO COOK, THE UGLY CUBES WERE TOO SALTY AND TASTED AWFUL.
BUT THEY STILL SATISFIED HIM BECAUSE HE HADN'T EATEN IN THREE DAYS.
WAH!
!!
HEY!! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

HOWEVER, THE DOCTORS ACCEPTED HIS MOTHER'S EXPLANATION, THAT HE HAD INJURED HIMSELF IN A FALL DOWN THE STAIRS.
A KICK SENT HIM FLYING AGAINST THE WALL, AND HIS SKULL CRACKED UPON IMPACT.
..DAMAGED THE NERVES THAT CONTROLLED EMPATHY AND LOVE.
OR PERHAPS THAT SERIOUS BRAIN CONCUSSION...
AFTERWARDS, THIS EMOTIONAL TRAUMA GAVE RISE TO ONE THOUGHT.
OF COURSE—
AN ABILITY, OUTSIDE NORMAL HUMAN BOUNDS, WAS AWAKENED.
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, NITOU SHINJI CHANGED COMPLETELY.

...AN OVER-WHELMING ABILITY MAY BRING ABOUT A SHOCKING ...
...AND TRAGIC CONCLU-SION.
IN THIS CASE, HE BUTCHERED HIS MOTHER AND HER BOY-FRIEND WITH HIS OWN HANDS WHEN HE WAS MERELY 6 YEARS OLD.
THAT MAN WAS THE BOSS OF HIS MOTHER'S BOYFRIEND. HE EVEN-TUALLY ADOPTED NITOU AS HIS SON.
BUT THERE WAS A MAN WHO GREATLY ADMIRED NITOU'S ABILITY.

...THE BIG BOSS TRAINED HIM EVERY DAY WITHOUT FAIL.
TO ENHANCE NITOU'S ABILITY...
NITOU SHINJI, AGE 16, WAS REBORN AS THE BODYGUARD OF THE LEADER OF THE NITOU GROUP
THE SWEET MEMORIES OF HIS GENTLE MOTHER...
AND HER CRUEL NEGLECT LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK,
FORMING A GREAT BLACK VOID THAT GREW AND GREW IN THE DARK CORNERS OF HIS HEART
EVEN THOUGH HIS NEW LIFE ALLOWED HIM TO FULLY UTILIZE HIS ABILITY,
HOWEVER,
THE EMPTINESS IN HIS HEART REMAINED.

TO FILL UP THAT GREAT BLACK VOID, HE SEARCHED FOR ENDLESS UNUSUAL AND BIZARRE WAYS TO CONSOLE HIMSELF AND SO HE HAPPENED, AT THE AGE OF 33...
...TO MEET HER
UNABLE TO SURVIVE WITH JUST HER CAREER AS A CELEBRITY, SHE WORKED PART TIME AT AN S&M CLUB...
MIDORI TOUKO.
Smooch
Smooch
Smooch
!

Smoooooch
Smooch
Smooch
Smoooooch
Smooch
Smooch
Sm

Smooch
Smoooch
Smooch
Smooch
Sm

HE SCULPTED MIDORI TOUKO INTO THE "BEAUTIFUL MEDIUM TOUKO," SILENTLY ASSISTING HER FROM THE BACKGROUND TO DEVELOP THE APPEARANCE OF GENUINE SPIRITUAL POWERS
WITH THAT, NITOU SHINJI FELT FULFILLED...
...UNTIL THESE TWO APPEARED
AND
WUA AAH HHH!

Snap!
...AND...

RIGHT AT...
THIS MOMENT...

SOMEONE EXTREMELY SKILLED, WITH HER OWN SPECIAL ABILITY..
?!

Urk
...
ENDED HIS LIFE

?
SO TH— THAT'S IT...
...SO...
...
YOUR... ATT-AT-TACKS...
...USE...
...Y-YOUR LOWER BODY... SO FLEX-IBLE... SO SUPPLE... PERFECT EXECU-TION...
JUST... JUST LIKE... A WHIP...
I SEE IT NOW ☆
WHY YES!

YOUR ATTACKS USE THE FLEXIBILITY OF YOUR LOWER LIMBS
AND THE SUPPLENESS OF YOUR MUSCLES, RIGHT?

YES, THAT'S RIGHT
なっとく
I KNEW IT
...♡

YOUR MIND IS NOT RUNNING WILD WITH DISGUSTING THOUGHTS, FOR A CHANGE IT'S TRUTH-FUL AND REFRESH-ING
MUS-CLE DUDE
...
SINCE YOU ARE ON THE BRINK OF DEATH
...ENJOY YOUR ME-MORIES FOR A LITTLE WHILE
♪

HEH.
I GUESS THIS IS NO DETECTIVE FLICK.
IN THE END, IT'S SIMPLY A SLASHER FLICK.

BLACK JOKE

BLACK JOKE

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by KOIKE Rintarou and TAGUCHI Masayuki

Black Joke ch30

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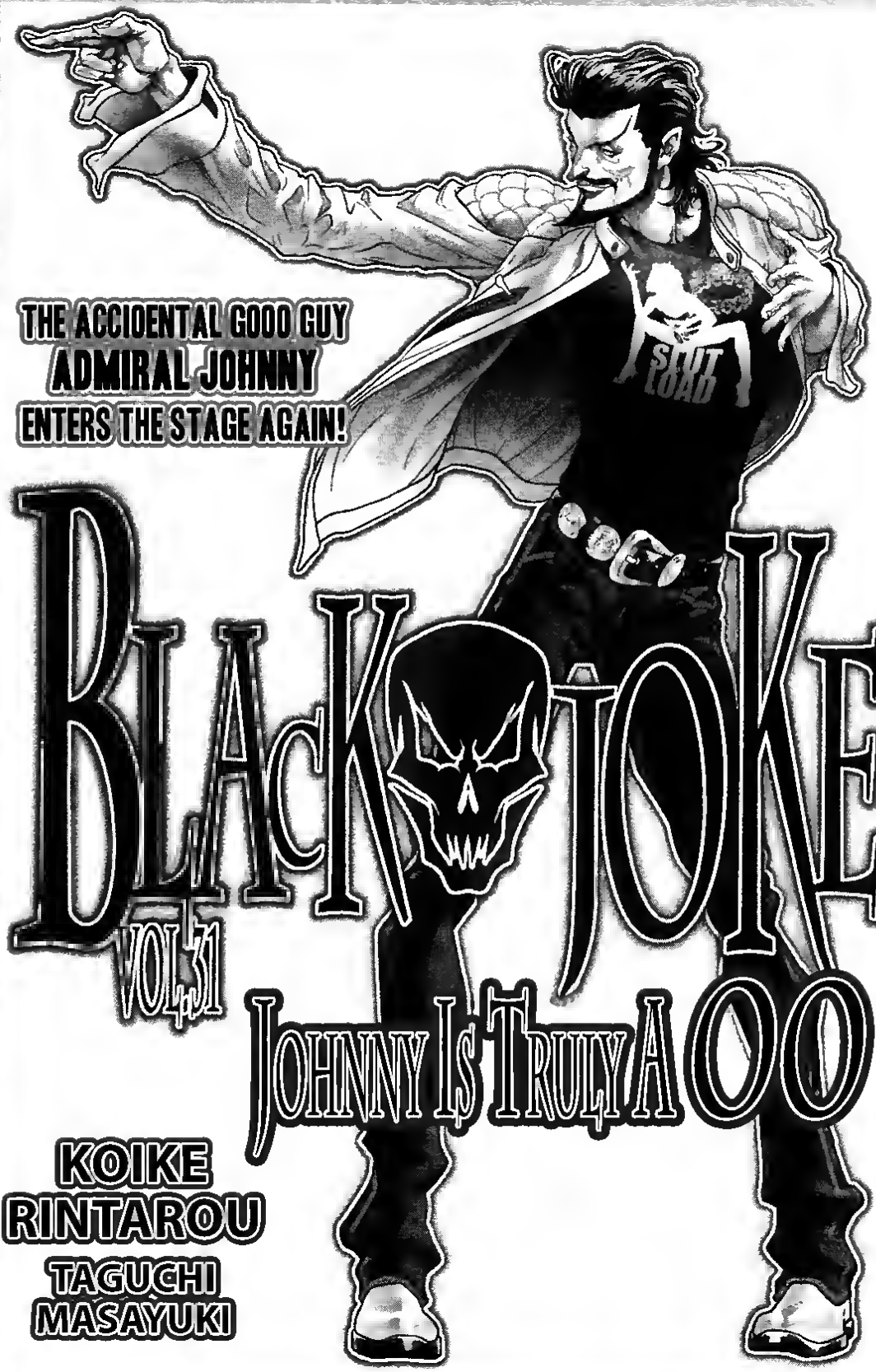
DID ↄ
DID THAT ↄ
DID THAT GUY DO this?!


THE ACCIDENTAL GOOD GUY
ADMIRAL JOHNNY
ENTERS THE STAGE AGAIN!
BLACK JOKE
VOL.31
JOHNNY IS TRULY A GOOD
KOIKE
RINTAROU
TAGUCHI
MASAYUKI

Hmm.
(ponder, speculate)
.....
KIRA,
LET'S GO TO THE NEXT BAR ♪
HUH?! YOU WANNA CONTINUE DRINK-ING?
LET'S GET BACK.
C'MON, LET'S GO. ♪

(Sigh)
HE SEEMS OVER-JOYED TODAY.
Mr. Kodame,
How have you been?
Even though we're miles apart, we can still keep in contact via email – it's really very convenient. I'm so grateful that Mr. Kira taught me how to use it!
Tashi acts like a young lad now, often bow hunting, as Mr. Kodame taught him. He has become very reliable and brings back a lot of game!
Chimi has been trying hard to learn from his big brother. (They tell me that Chimi knows how to locate the wild game – he's so adorable ♡)
Lamo has turned into a fine little miss as well. She helps me out with the chores all the time. (I bought a really cute kimono for her a while ago.)
Well then, I'm looking forward to your next email ♡
PS: I really hope that I can visit Kihon Island one day.
Sonam
!

KIRA, LET'S CUT THROUGH HERE.
TAKE THIS SHORT CUT ♪
WHAT?! THAT'S A REALLY LAME IDEA!
THERE WAS A DOWN-POUR LAST NIGHT, MAN.
THE MUDDY PUDDLES WILL MESS UP OUR SHOES!

.. SPLO-OSH, SPLASH, SPLAT
EVERY STEP
YOU KNOW
WHY?
?
NO PRO-BLEM
HUH?!
?!

HEY!
KO-
OA-
MEP!
!

SEE?
☆
KIRA.
YOU C'MON, TOO
.....
.....
YEAH RIGHT "SEE? ☆." MY ASS
HOW ON EARTH AM I S'POSED TO JUMP OVER THAT?

GORILA KICK GORILA KICK
DON'T BE SHY.
EAT ALL YOU WANT, GUNBOAT!!
Chomp
Chomp
Chomp
Chomp
Chomp
Chomp

JOHNNY ARMY'S REBIRTH INTO A SUPER-POWERFUL LEGEND TONIGHT!!
WE'RE CELEBRATING...
THAT'S RIGHT! EAT YOUR FILL!
Chomp
Chew
Chew
WITH YOUR EXTRAORDINARY LONG DISTANCE SNIPING ARILITY, YOU WILL BE MY TRUMP CARD!!
OK GUN-BOAT!
S FOR...

Chew
Chew
!
Chomp
...CLOSE COMBAT, WE HAVE...
MASTER
CHEN LENG.
♡
CHEERS.

FINALLY
THE BRAINS OF THIS OPERATION WILL BE ME ADMIRAL (COMMANDER IN-CHIEF) JOHNNY THE GREAT ♡
!!
YOU! YOU ARE...
HMM?
!
UH-OH
YOU'RE... KIYOSHI KIRA.
...???
WHO'S THAT GUY, I WONDER?

JOHN-NY? THE JOHN-NY
WHO WAS IN MY PA-TOON IN THE MA-RINES?
This brings back memories ♡
THE JOHNNY WHO SHAT HIS PANTS DURING BASIC TRAINING? THAT JOHNNY?? ♡
(smile)

I..... I DIDN'T SHIT MY PANTS!!
YOU MOST DEFINITELY DID.
JUST LIKE THIS. PPHLOOO OTZZZ! He-he-he.

POOT? POOT? NO WAY!! NEVER!
THAT'S NOT RIGHT

SPLPL-PLOOO-PLA-PLA.
WITH EXTREME SPLAT-TERING.
IT WAS SPL-PL-PLOO-PLA-PLA.
Bite

IT'S NOT VERY SMART TO ACT THAT WAY!!
YOU KNOW?
LOOKING DOWN ON ME LIKE THAT - YOU GUYS SURE THAT'S OKAY?

DOJI KODA-URG ME

EH?
Chew chew
OH?
Suddenly so cocky.

Grrr
(rage)
WHO'S MUCH STRONGER THAN YOU, DOJI KODAME!!
JOHNNY ARMY IS REBORN, AND I HAVE A MARTIAL ARTS MASTER...
CHEERS.
LET ME INTRO-DUCE MASTER CHEN LENG.
(cackle)
I'M STRONG-ER.
HMPH

HRR RMM.
(rage)
slurp
NO WAY!! MASTER CHEN LENS DEFINITELY SURPASSES YOU!!
GRR RRR.
(rage)
HMM! I SHALL ANSWER YOU.
BEFORE I MESS YOU GUYS UP SO BAD THAT YOU'RE CRAPPING YOUR PANTS
(smile)
WHERE DID YOU GET ALL THIS CONFIDENCE?
SO, UH, JOHNNY.
WE INTENDED TO FIND ANOTHER ESTABLISHMENT AND PARTY ALL NIGHT ONCE THE RAIN LET UP.
GUNBOAT AND I DUCKED INTO THIS PLACE, THE GORILLA KICK, SEEKING SHELTER FROM THE RAIN.
ACTUALLY, LAST NIGHT,
AND JUST THEN!!
!

ON TOP OF THAT, HE APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE.
MASTER CHEN LENG WALKED OVER FROM THIS DIRECTION
WHAT'S THAT OLD DUDE UP TO?
?
MASTER CHEN LENG KEPT GOING THROUGH SOME STRANGE MOTIONS...
AND I ALMOST DECIDED THAT HE WAS DRUNK.
AT THAT EXACT MOMENT, THE MASTER RETURNED TO HIS SENSES...

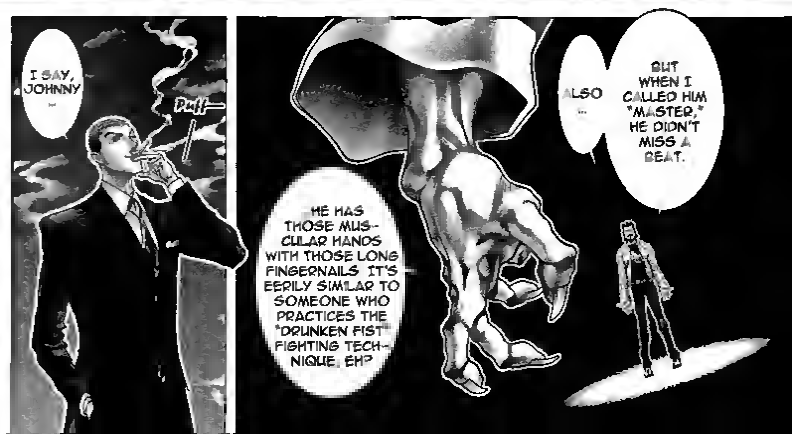
...AND HIS STRANGE ACTIONS SUDDENLY ENDED WITH A SHARP SLAP ON THE GROUND WITH HIS FOOT!!
AS I WATCHED THE SCENE, MY ONLY THOUGHT WAS...
..."WHAT A WEIRD OLD GEEZER."

BUT, THE NEXT DAY, WHICH WAS ALSO THIS AFTER-NOON, I WAS SHOCKED TO DIS-COVER...
...THAT THE SURFACE OF THE GRAVEL ROAD, RIGHT WHERE MASTER CHEN LENG STEPPED...
...WAS ACTUALLY BLASTED INTO A GREAT PIT!!!
IT WAS A GLORIOUS REVELA-TION TO ME
(struck)
CHEERS.
THIS ELDERLY MAN IS A MASTER OF DRUNKEN FIST!

GORILLA KICK
LISTEN, JOHNNY, YOU'RE BEING WAY TOO NAIVE.
I'm kinda surprised.
UM, YEAH. ABOUT THAT.
(grimed smile)
I'm starving, man.
.....
DA-FUQ?!
?!
I SAW IT TOO AS I CAME OVER JUST NOW.
THAT "GREAT PIT" YOU MENTIONED?
THERE'S SOME CONSTRUCTION GOING ON JUST OPPOSITE THE GORILLA KICK, YOU KNOW?
RE-MEMBER?
THINK ABOUT IT CAREFULLY
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT A HUMAN STOMP COULD CREATE A HOLE THAT ROUND?
WASN'T IT OBVIOUSLY MADE BY SOMETHING LIKE A WRECKING BALL?

(sip)
(slurp)
CUTTING THROUGH THERE WILL LEAVE YOU WITH MUD ALL OVER YOUR SHOES.
AND THAT CONSTRUCTION SITE
BECOMES A SHORTCUT TO ANOTHER BAR AFTER MIDNIGHT.
WELL THEN ...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WANTED TO CLEAN THE MUD FROM YOUR SHOES.
FURTHER MORE, THERE'S A PUDDLE RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU
It's even in a nice round shape.
...
...
(sweat)

OF COURSE, YOU'D STEP RIGHT IN ♡ IT. RIGHT?
UH. UM M.


I SAY, JOHNNY...
Puff
HE HAS THOSE MUSCULAR HANDS WITH THOSE LONG FINGERNAILS. IT'S EERILY SIMILAR TO SOMEONE WHO PRACTICES THE "DRUNKEN FIST" FIGHTING TECHNIQUE, EH?
ALSO...
BUT WHEN I CALLED HIM "MASTER," HE DIDN'T MISS A BEAT.

AND THOSE LONG FINGERNAILS? HE'S THE KINDA GUY WHO'S NOT TOO BOTHERED ABOUT PERSONAL HYGIENE.
I mean, drunk in the middle of the night and he still took the shortcut even though it would mess up his shoes.
(Hah-heh)
AS FOR HIS MUSCULAR HANDS, SEEMS TO ME THAT HE WORKED AS A LABORER IN HIS YOUNGER DAYS.
You actually treated an old coot like that to a meal. You're really a nice guy, eh Johnny?
(Laugh)
...IN CHINA, PEOPLE HARDLY OLDER THAN YOU CAN STILL ACT ARROGANT.
It's that long tradition of Confucian thinking.
CHEERS
!
.....
RAGE
Errrgg!!
Eek!
.....

Puf-f-f-
COME TO THINK OF IT
It is very good of you to visit me
PLEASE NO-O-O-O-O-O!!

...JOHNNY IS TRULY ONE NO-LUCK SCHMUCK.
BANG
ADMIRAL JOHNNY SUFFERED FRACTURES TO THE UPPER AND LOWER JAW, TRAUMA TO THE SPINE, FRACTURE TO HIS LEFT EYE'S ORBIT WALLS, FRACTURE TO HIS RIGHT LEG'S TIBIA AND KNEE BONE...
— AND AN ADDITIONAL FRACTURE TO HIS RIGHT HAND'S INDEX FINGER. IT'S GOING TO TAKE HIM SIX MONTHS TO RECOVER.
TO BE CONTINUED NEXT VOLUME

See You Next Issue!
Runover Will Be Back!!

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